

# Early prominent Blacks profiled



A gentle African American lady poses for this formal photograph, probably taken sometime in the mid-1800s.

The photograph is one of many early photographic efforts to be shown during the upcoming special one-hour presentation of Hoosier History seen on Indianapolis' own Cable Channel 18.

The next episode for Hoosier History will examine Indianapolis' African American Community and will be a special one-hour edition.

The program is hosted and produced by Rick Meadira who spent seven months researching and producing the show.

It will look at such notables as Marshall "Major" Taylor who at the age of 15 broke the world's record for the mile on a bicycle. Over the next five years he set world records for seven distances. He reigned as American champion in 1894 and world champion the following year.

The first person of African American descent to run for President of the United States was Frank R. Ruck with a Republican who lost the nomination and to Richard Nixon in 1960. A prominent local attorney, he tried again in 1964.

Heckwilde was instrumental in increasing the black personnel on the police force by drafting and lobbying for a law that required Indianapolis to hire more black policemen on the basis of the city's population.

The nation's first mail-made millionaire was Madame C.J. Walker who created skin and hair care products that saw her grow from the daughter of former slaves and virtually penniless to countless riches in fourteen years.

Erasmus Attucks High School was opened in 1927 to segregate black and white students. Matthew Myers, the school's first principal recruited top notch black educators to teach at Attucks. Many of them were

college professors who could not get work elsewhere because they were black.

Attucks won back to back basketball state titles in '33 and '34 with Oscar Robertson on the hardwood and Ray Crowe as coach.

Berry Daniels of the infamous "Link Spots" and the last founding member still around recalls the more than 130 groups that have come along since 1879 and called themselves the Link Spots. Jerry Daniels plays two hour shows especially for the program.

Wes Montgomery, the world's premier jazz guitarist, made his home in Indianapolis. And like a lot of other noted city musicians, he made a name for himself on "the Avenue." Indiana Avenue. The Avenue was the mecca of jazz at one time in America. Frequent gigs were performed by Glenn Miller, Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington.

Local greats, Jimmy Cox and Cy Fontee recall those special days and the greatness of Wes Montgomery.

The program also examines the political, artistic, cultural, business and religious contributions made by our heritage-rich African American Community.

Program times are Sunday, July 29 - noon, 4 p.m., 8 p.m. and midnight; Monday, July 30 - noon, 4 p.m., 8 p.m. and midnight; Friday, August 3 - noon, 4 p.m., 8 p.m. and midnight; and Sunday, August 5 - noon, 4 p.m., 8 p.m. and midnight.



## Video to document history of baseball in Indianapolis

Government Cable Channel 16 and the Indianapolis Indians are undertaking a joint project that will document the history of professional baseball in Indianapolis through old pictures, home movies and interviews.

People with access to material about the city's professional teams are encouraged to call Rick Maltura, producer of the series "Hoosier History" at 327-4591. The history of the city's Negro League teams, the Indianapolis ABC's and the Indianapolis Clowns, will be featured along with the history of the Indianapolis Indians and the Indianapolis Blues.

The project will culminate in a



The Indianapolis ABC's, a team in the Negro Leagues, will be one of the baseball clubs highlighted in an upcoming video on the history of baseball in Indianapolis.

30-minute "Hoosier History" program on Channel 16 that will focus on professional baseball as it has existed in Indianapolis since before the turn of the century.

The statewide search should include all pictures taken before 1960 and all old movies taken of the city's professional teams. All visuals will be returned and if home movies are available, the lender should provide a black VHS tape, and Channel 16 will make a copy. The home movies can be in either 8mm or 16mm format.

Pictures can include both action on the field and children getting autographs from the players.



# Ft. Benjamin Harrison is focus of 'Hoosier History' documentary

The latest episode of the award-winning, documentary series, "Hoosier History," will examine Ft. Benjamin Harrison.

The 30-minute program, "A Tribute to Ft. Benjamin Harrison," was produced by Rick Mischler for WCTV Cable TV 18 and can be seen on Comcast and American Cablevision. The ongoing process of closing down the base comes to a culmination in 1996 and documenting the life of the post was a major goal for the series. The program can be seen at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26, Friday, Jan. 28 and Sunday, Jan. 30.

The bond that makes up the Army base was once occupied by Indians of the Miami and Delaware tribes. Although the base was not completed by 1910, the largest base, moreover for the National Guard began much earlier.

By 1903, the 10th Infantry arrived. It was the first Army regiment to be garrisoned at the base. Sports were very popular at the post. The football and basketball teams were blessed to enjoy 700 fans and would often compete with not only other military teams but with civilian teams.

legions teams, as well.

The Infantry regiments at Ft. Harrison moved mostly by horseback or foot when they trained. Horse-drawn artillery batteries were commonplace at the fort for dry-run exercises. Because of the relative small size of the fort, soldiers often marched with their horse-drawn batteries to Ft. Knox, Ky., to engage in live fire.

From blacked inspection to trench construction, Ft. Benjamin Harrison undoubtedly prepared thousands of soldiers for combat . . . and life, and did so well.

The life at Ft. Harrison during World War II centered mostly around the production and processing of troops mobilized to fight in foreign lands. Heavy work at 5 a.m. as the day got started. Soldiers were spent discussing the day's events over a cigarette in front of the same wooden benches that would later house parties at Indianapolis' Pan American Games.

In an event that would find history repeating itself, Ft. Harrison was closed Dec. 8, 1941. In a familiar theme, the

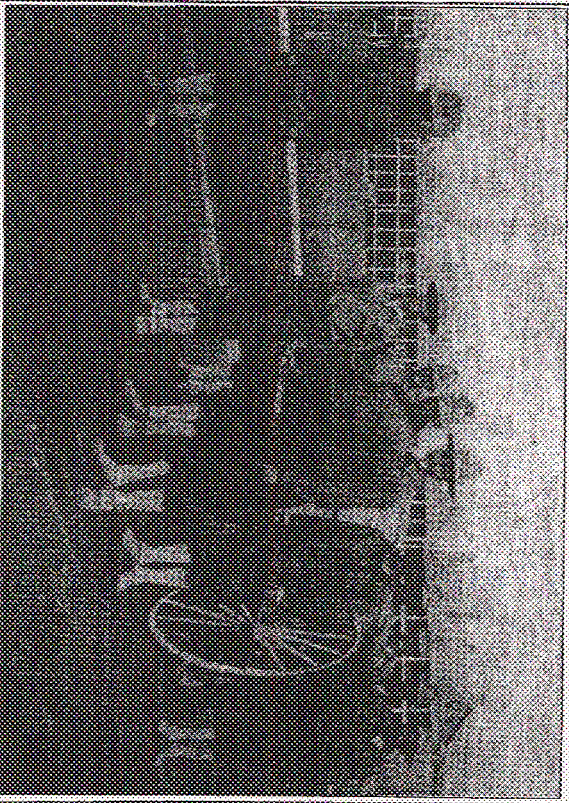
Indiana's Times reported that the fort had been sought by private groups and by even-minded citizens for a state or city park. Almost 50 years later the same story is the same.

The Department of the Interior had concluded that the base was no longer needed in a post war role. After much debate, the fort was reopened in August of 1947, at which time the Secretary of War concluded that to close the base would leave Indiana without a suitable military installation.

Not long after the post was reopened by the Army, it became an Air Force base in 1948.

Against the backdrop of the Korean War and the expanding political and military role of the United States around the world, Ft. Benjamin Harrison emerged in new prominence in the 1950s.

The biggest news was that the Army announced the construction of the new Army Finance Center, to be moved from St. Louis, and the relocation and modernization of the U.S. Army Adjutant General and Ft. Harrison School to Ft. Harrison.



The history of Ft. Benjamin Harrison, a landmark on the city's Eastside, will be examined during "Hoosier History," a 30-minute documentary airing on WCTV Cable TV 18. The base, pictured above in 1984, will close in 1996. (Photo courtesy of Indiana Historical Society)

## ABWA AREA COUNCIL

The Indianapolis Area Council of American Business Women's Association will meet Thursday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Marlet Shrine, 810 N. New Jersey St.

Any ABWA member is welcome.

## Businesswomen

### will honor Luegar

Team 100, an organization of 100 Indiana women, will host a "Women Leaders for Luegar Luncheon" Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the Indiana Bond Ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Judy Singleton, Team 100 chairwoman, said the effort has been designed by Hoosier businesswomen and community leaders as an expression of gratitude for Sen. Luegar's long-held and active commitment to promoting women in the workplace and public arena.

Tickets are \$60 for the luncheon or \$150 including a pre-luncheon briefing with the senator and Linda DeVall, president of American Women, a national polling and research firm. For tickets and more information call Paul Luegar at 253-1344.

The Heart of the Southside Beats in the Spotlight

Circulation 25,000



# Producer focuses his search on Harrison snapshots

Come on now, the man was inaugurated as president of the United States the same year Kodak brought out the first simple box cameras.

That camera, which used 100-exposure rolls, created an instant amateur photography boom in this country. Almost overnight, everyone seemed to be snapping pictures.

Surely, Rick Maultra believes, someone took candid snapshots with their new camera of Benjamin Harrison, the man who took the oath of office as president in 1888.

So, where are the photos?

"The Indiana Historical Society has four or five good ones I can use," said Maultra, producer-director of the "Hoosier History" series of documentaries shown on cable Channel 16, the local government channel.

"The museum bought them from a



**DAVID MANNWEILER**

private individual here at an auction. They show Harrison, when he was president, posing in front of a string of ducks he and his buddies had shot at the Benjies Point Duck Club in Maryland. Another one shows him in a little grass hut, getting ready to shoot ducks.

"They are the only pictures the historical society has that are exclusive from what everybody else has."

Maultra is searching for additional "exclusive" photos of Harrison to include in a half-hour documentary he's making about 23rd president, who lived in Indianapolis.

He plans to debut the documentary on Channel 16 in November, before this year's centennial of Harrison's swearing-in slips away.

"There are unique pictures of Harrison out there. There must be," Maultra insisted.

## *Looked everywhere*

In the last three weeks, he's put in calls to the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the White House archives, the state historical society,

the state museum and the Benjamin Harrison Memorial Home.

"They seem to be bereft of Benjamin Harrison photos, other than three-quarter portrait views. I'm up to my elbows in three-quarter poses of Harrison. Everybody has those," Maultra said.

The National Archives confirmed it did have a Harrison photo file, but it wouldn't make photocopies of what it had so Maultra could decide if it was worth \$35 to order a print. He also would have to go to Washington to get the reprints.

Maultra also has talked with Benjamin Harrison Walker, a grandson of the president, who lives in New York.

"He said he's sent his personal photo collection to the Harrison home, but he told me I'd probably be very disappointed in the quality of the pictures," Maultra said.

"He said there are a lot of long shots and wide shots taken at rallies where Harrison spoke to large crowds. You have to look pretty hard to pick out Harrison. You have to know where he is."

## *Even in coffin*

"A lot of people don't realize (James Whitcomb) Riley and Hilton U. Brown and (Booth) Tarkington were pall bearers for Harrison. I understand he had an open coffin when he lay in state in the Statehouse. I bet someone took pictures of that."

If you can help out Maultra, you can find him in Room 2560 at the City-County Building or answering the phone at 236-4591.

You'll get your pictures back, he promises.

10/6/88

# Maultra focuses on Irvington

## Neighborhood was home to the elite

by MARION GARRETT  
The Indianapolis News

**R**ICK MAULTRA OF Channel 16, the Indianapolis city government cable channel, continues his "Hoosier History" project with "The Rise of Irvington," a 30-minute documentary premiering at 8 tonight on Comcast and American Cablevision.

It's a delightful composite of period music, still photos, early films and reminiscences of the leafy suburban neighborhood that was established to be a home for the wealthy and culturally elite residents.

Its history also is inextricably tied to the early history of Butler University, which was there until 1928. When Butler moved

### its history also is

**inextricably tied to the early history of Butler University, which was there until 1928. When Butler moved from Irvington, it was disaster for the community.**

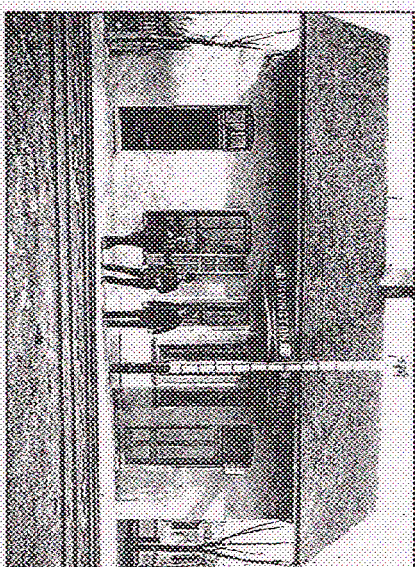
from Irvington, says narrator Maultra, it was disaster for the community.

This was also, you'll learn, the place where the idea of selling Girl Scout cookies was born — only in those days they were home-baked. Some of the prominent residents who lent their

memories to the show are WRTV anchorman Howard Caldwell and Henry Osterman, former U.S. ambassador to Suriname.

Some of the prominent residents of Irvington who are remembered include John Ellenberger (Ellenberger Park), Thomas Carr Howe (Howe High School), cartoonist Kip Hubbard and Hiram U. Brown (former editor of The News), who covered the 1918 influenza pandemic and presided at the family Easter egg roll on the hill of his home at the corner of Washington Street and Emerson Avenue.

These are the kinds of honey details that make Maultra's histories so valuable. The documentary will be repeated Friday and April 11 at 4, 8 and midnight on both American and Comcast. Butler University's over-the-air Channel 69 also will have the show at an unspecified later date.



The train depot in Irvington is shown in this photo from about 1880.

Courtesy of Channel 16



# The East

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TELEPHONE

## Irvington To Be Shown On Television

By Larry Muncie

The long-awaited Hoosier History series program on Irvington is completed and soon to be aired.

The program, which will be premiered on American Cablevision, Channel 16, next Monday (April 5), presents an historical perspective of the Irvington community from its earliest days to the 1940s.

The 30-minute documentary features a mix of interviews, still pictures, and never before publicly shown vintage home movie film to paint a colorful portrait of early Irvington.

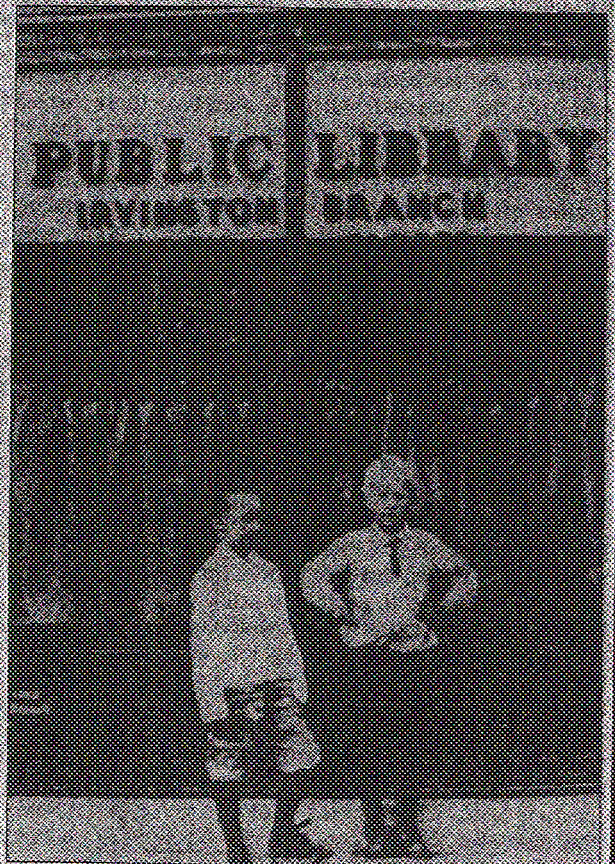
The program includes interviews with a number of Irvington residents who reminisce about growing up in the community. It presents a pleasing balance between scenes of an earlier Irvington and the pictures and stories of those who lived there.

The Story of Irvington is the fourteenth in the popular Hoosier History series which has previously featured programs on Broad Ripple, Haughville, and the Old Greek, Catholic, and German neighborhoods of Indianapolis, and will soon produce a program on John Dillinger.

The program was completed with assistance from a

number of Irvington residents and several Irvington groups including the Irvington Historical Society, the Friend of Irving Circle Park, and the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

The program may be viewed on American Cablevision, Channel 16, on April 5, at 8 p.m. and midnight, April 9, noon, 4, 8, and midnight, and April 11, noon, 4, 8, and midnight.



Irvington Branch Library while still located in a storefront at 5518 East Washington, about 1920.



# Lousy phone service

**I**n this information age of instant communications, it is unacceptable that a typical residential telephone customer in central Indiana must wait well over 24 hours for service to be restored on a knocked out phone line.

Yet that was exactly the experience of customers of Indiana's largest telephone provider in 1999.

Ameritech Indiana had the worst response time — 27.2 hours — of any major phone company in the nation last year, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

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**Service for Ameritech's Indiana customers has been poor for several years, even while the company has promised to do better.**

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Ameritech serves about two-thirds of all telephone customers in the state. Complaints are mounting not only about the snail pace of service, as *Star* staff writer Stuart A. Hirsch pointed out in a story Wednesday, but also that technicians fail to fix the problem in nearly one out of five repair calls.

While service for Ameritech's Indiana customers has been poor for the last several years, it has deteriorated even while the company has promised to do better.

Hirsch noted that nearly 17 percent of 2,458 customers in the company's own survey said they were not satisfied with repair work. That, according to previous reports filed with the FCC, compares to 12 percent in 1998, 10 percent in 1997 and 8 percent in 1996.

George Fleetwood, Ameritech Indiana's new president, suggested that the company's ability to deal with repair problems has been compromised by demands on technicians in installing a record number of new telephone lines in 1999.

Yet Fleetwood contends that "customer service is our top priority."

Ameritech's recent acquisition by SBC Communications holds both irony and hope. SBC, which operates in the Southwest, has the best residential repair response time — just under 11 hours — in the nation.

SBC also has been quick to offer many of its customers broadband lines for faster computer data transmission over the Internet. In that respect, Ameritech's residential customers are still way out in the cold.

More competition might get Ameritech's attention in Indiana, but it has been very slow in coming.

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's role in assuring better service for the state's telephone customers is critical. The commission is in the process of updating service quality rules. It's about time. The last update was in 1978.

That in itself is pretty lousy service to Indiana's telephone customers.

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## THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

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EUGENE C. PULLIAM 1889-1975, Publisher 1944-1975

EUGENE S. PULLIAM 1914-1999, Publisher 1975-1999

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# 'Ripple nobody knows

I brushed aside the 1926 Rand McNally Indiana road map and the fire department's list of 143 water cisterns under Indianapolis streets in 1900 — never throw anything away, you might need it — and seized the yellowed, folded map in the drawer.

It was the Indiana Department of Conservation's 1952 petroleum exploration map locating dry holes, gas wells, abandoned oil wells and abandoned gas wells in Marion County.

"Look at all those abandoned oil wells in Broad Ripple," I said.

"Oil wells? I didn't hear a thing about any oil wells in Broad Ripple," said Rick Maultra.

But he's heard plenty of other stuff about Broad Ripple.

The senior producer for Channel 16, the government cable channel, Maultra has just finished his 13th "Hoosier History" video, a profile/history/appreciation of Broad Ripple and its residents.

## Locations unknown

Where people today hear "Broad Ripple," they think of bars, music, food and ducks. Maultra takes viewers back to canals, zoos, Zivien's Department Store and the soda fountains at the Big & Little and Lobraico's Drug store.

If he didn't hear about Broad Ripple's oil wells, there's a good reason: the map explains most wells in the Broad Ripple Field were drilled before 1900 and their locations couldn't be found by field checkers in 1952, so they were drawn in from a 1920 map.

Maultra's half-hour history of Broad Ripple will debut on Channel 16 at 8 p.m. Monday. It will be repeated four times on Fridays and Sundays throughout September.

Once again, Maultra uses a mixture of home movies and photographs for his visuals. And this time, postcards.

"I literally went knocking on doors in Broad Ripple getting pictures for this," Maultra said. "There were not as many home movies as I would have liked. There were no home movies, for instance, of White City."

That was a 60-acre amusement park with a 500-foot boardwalk along White River, a huge dance hall, a Venetian canal, a giant roller coaster, bowling alleys, diving horses and the carousel that's now in the Children's Museum.

## Creative license

Maultra's visuals for the park came from postcards collected by Charles and Jane Ayres.

"The restoration [of the postcards] was done in Germany. A lot of the time, the people in Germany didn't have any idea what color something was so they took lots of creative license. Buildings are the wrong color. Awnings are wrong."

The coup of Maultra's video is an interview with 98-year-old Frank "Mike" Lobraico, who opened his Broad Ripple pharmacy in 1925.

Once a trumpeter with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Lobraico plays for Maultra's camera, shrugs and apologizes. "I just haven't got any lip anymore."



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## 1996: dates stand

is holding steady, even declining in some years period. A poll commissioned by The Indianapolis News and Channel 13 shows Hoosiers consider violent crime the most serious issues in the Nov. 5 election concerns to the candidates. Today, the candidates in Districts 56, 57 and 58 answer crime and drug abuse. The rest of this publish answers from other legislative candi-

if at all, would you  
 range strategy  
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Do you consider capital  
 punishment a deterrent  
 to violent crime?

No.

"Slightly, but I don't  
 think it's a cure for  
 violent crime. It's not a  
 great solution."

## Briefly City

From Staff Reports

### Cable customers can use Internet to file complaints

■ INDIANAPOLIS  
 Cable television customers who have complaints about their cable company now can tell the city Cable Communications Agency about it through the Internet.

The agency, which is the franchising authority for Marion County, mediates complaints and monitors the cable companies to make sure they are fulfilling their contracts.

Subscribers to either American Cablevision or Comcast Cablevision can e-mail their complaints to the agency on the Internet. The complaints should be sent to [Cable@inetdirect.net](mailto:Cable@inetdirect.net).

Subscribers also can call the agency at (317) 327-4529 or write to it at 200 E. Washington St., City-County Building, Room G-19, Indianapolis, Ind. 46204.



## INDIANAPOLIS BAR ASSOCIATION

# Superior court judge hosts TV talk show

By Mike Magan

The city of Indianapolis has its own talk show on the television airwaves, but you won't find it competing with "trash-n-bash" shows like *"Ricki Lake"* or *"Sally."*

The subject matter is educational — lawyers discussing the ins and outs of alternative dispute resolution or the bankruptcy process are common topics.

Indianapolis residents may have seen *"Scales of Justice"* on Channel 16, Marion County's government-run, public-access television station. And area lawyers may have recognized the show's host, Judge Gary Miller, Marion County Superior Court, criminal division.

Sponsored by the Indianapolis Bar Association, 10 installments of the show have aired since January of last year. Miller said the objective of the show is to educate the lay public about the legal profession and the court system.

"There seems to be this misperception that there's something magical that goes on in the legal system and that you have to be a lawyer to understand it," Miller said. "Therefore we want to try to demystify the process and for everybody to understand what it is that lawyers do."

If each show accomplishes this objective, Miller believes litigants who watch

will have far less stress when they deal with the legal system.

"Many of the litigants who come through the court are there for the first time, or may not understand what is happening," Miller said. "The issues discussed on the show are intended to clear up some of that confusion and worry."

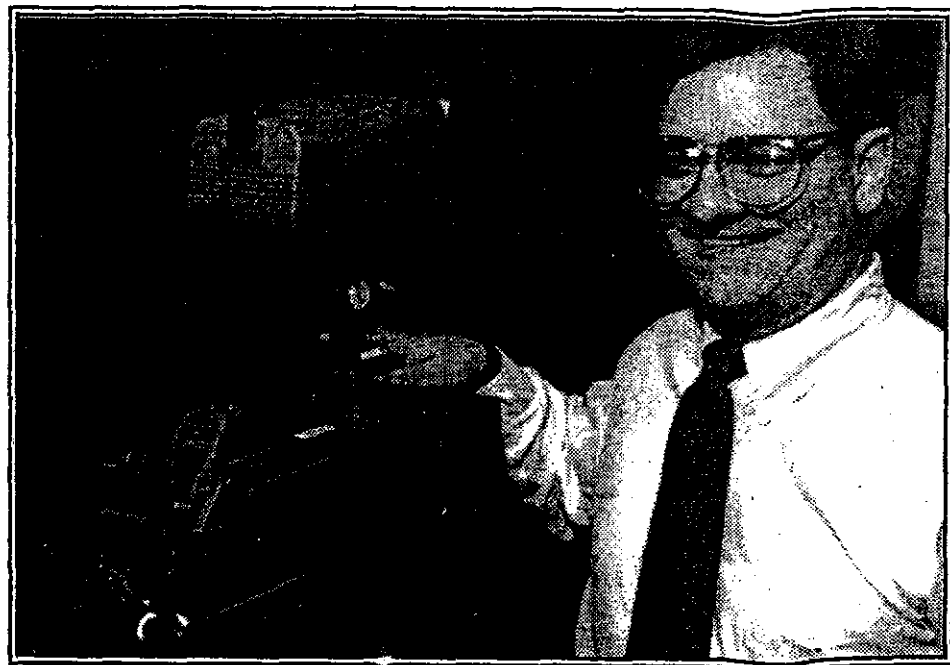
The half-hour show is inexpensive to produce and features little or no post-production editing. Miller describes it as a no-frills approach to educating on television.

Awkward camera angles and deep coughs into the microphone may be editing targets on other programs, but virtually everything makes the *"Scales"* tape, Miller said.

"The nature of public-TV at this level is such that we don't have the benefit of stopping tape and going back and doing things that other television stations might be able to do," Miller explained. "The best way to cover the topics we do is to keep things simple."

Past shows have dealt with topics such as the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, the public defender agency and domestic relations issues. This year, Miller hopes to feature divorce and child support issues, as well as common questions about probate.

Future program formats may feature a prosecutor and a defense attorney debating the merits of the death penalty, and other shows may inform view-



Judge Gary Miller

ers about how judges make their decisions.

Channel 16 does not subscribe to a ratings service such as Nielson Corp., Miller said, so the success of the show must be gauged by viewer feedback and telephone calls.

"Lawyers stop me all the time to compliment the show or give suggestions, and all I hear from Channel 16 is that they receive only positive feedback," Miller said. "I think the show has been

a success."

But Miller wanted to make one thing clear; he isn't planning on embarking on a TV career.

"I don't think I have what I call a TV face," Miller joked. "I have a face that's made for radio."

He even receives some good-natured "needling" from his fellow judges.

"My response to them is: 'Hey, didn't I see you at the autograph session last week?'"

Technology advances in the past

engineering arts



## Opinion

## editorial

## Channel 16's not flashy, but it works

By commercial TV standards, Channel 16 is a flop. Its programming often is painfully boring, and the number of viewers watching at any given time is minuscule.

But those are the wrong standards with which to assess the station, which carries City-County Council meetings, zoning hearings and other government programming.

Its purpose is simple: to provide Marion County residents a window into the world of government. Without leaving their living room couch—and without commercial interruption—residents can observe complete meetings, often transmitted live, likely learning far more than they would from media coverage of the event.

The point is not how many people are watching. The point is providing a connection between an increasingly disillusioned populace and the politicians and community leaders who represent them. We think the station fulfills that mission.

That's why we're concerned by Mayor Steve Goldsmith's latest effort to take operation of the station from government's hands. The mayor first pursued privatizing the station four years ago as one of his first initiatives, but he was shot down by the City-County Council.

The city's Cable Franchise Board, which oversees the station, revived the privatization discussion last month by issuing a request for information from companies or organizations interested in running the station.

That's fine by us. Maybe outsiders have ideas that would improve the station. But most likely that request is setting the stage for a formal request for proposals and the appointment of an outside firm to run it.

Such a move raises myriad questions: Would a not-for-profit or for-profit firm chosen to take over the station run advertising? And

if it ran advertising, would viewers miss out on whatever happened during commercial breaks?

Another looming question: Would the operator's pursuit of viewers compel it to jazz up programming? If that happened, government meetings might be displaced by entertainment-oriented programming.

We do see areas where Channel 16 could improve. For instance, the community would benefit if the channel began covering state legislative hearings of local interest and expanded its coverage of neighborhood meetings.

But we think any changes should leave government operation of the channel intact. We see lots of risks in privatizing the service—and few potential awards.

The service has an annual budget of only \$761,296. The money comes from franchise fees paid by the city's two cable companies, American Cablevision and Comcast.

Former Deputy Mayor Joseph Loftus, Goldsmith's representative on the cable board, said the city revived discussion of the station after the cable companies said they would consider taking over the station. The city is in the midst of renegotiating its cable franchises.

Loftus said the privatization discussions might yield an operator who would offer enhanced service for the same money or maintain the same service for less money.

That may be. But we're talking about a tiny amount of money by government standards—so tiny that we wonder whether this is an issue on which Goldsmith should be focusing his attention.

If he ultimately succeeds, he no doubt will hail Channel 16 as another privatization success. We have little doubt it would be a success by private-sector standards. We're just afraid the public would be the losers.

## letters to the editor

Wood vs. steel  
not simple issue

I read with great interest Morton Marcus' "Eye on the Pie" column in the May 20 issue of *IBJ*. While I support the efforts of the steel industry to rebound, I

He does, in passing, mention that wood framing has some advantages. One of the advantages most often ignored is true environmental impact. A goal of the world community is to reduce energy consumption. The use of wood products helps to offset this effect on the energy cycle in at

es, I-joist and laminated beams, not to save money, but to improve the quality of their products. The home-building work force has gone to nailing guns, air-driven screwdrivers, and even lasers to enable them to build a quality home that is more true.

Again, I applaud the steel industry in

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# Sitter named Nell, mymes with hell



And 'Hoosier History' chronicles the state's Jewish immigrants

**K**IM MYERS, the Meryl Streep look-alike, has a good time playing a baby sitter from hell.

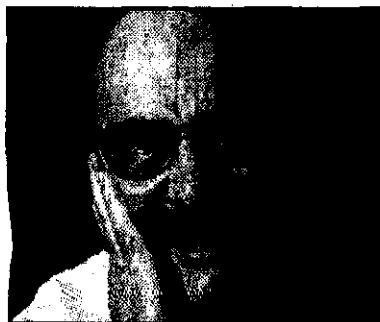
Otherwise, there's no good reason for "The Sitter," the "Fox Night at the Movies" offering to-night at 8, WXIN 59.

The film is a remake of "Don't Bother to Knock," the 1952 theatrical that gave Marilyn Monroe her first starring role, and that's one of problems.

The script, adapted and directed by Rick Berger, applies the sensibilities of 40 years ago to a contemporary situation and the elements collide into nonsense.

So this story goes, a successful writer of books and his wife must attend a publisher's dinner in a big city hotel, but at the last minute they don't have a sitter for their 5-year-old daughter, Melissa (played nicely by newcomer Kimberly Cullum).

All they need is someone to stay in their fifth-floor suite with the child for about three hours



**R.K. SHULL**

while they're downstairs in the banquet room.

In a modern hotel, they'd call the concierge to help. Instead, this couple accepts the offer of a shifty-eyed hotel employee (Eugene Roche), whose niece, Nell (Myers), is available.

The parents ignore the ominous music on the sound track and agree to the arrangement.

How are they to know the girl has been psychologically abused all her life and long ago slipped into a delusional world made up of bits and parts from the old movies she uses to escape reality?

Or that she gets homicidal when anyone messes with her fantasies?

Nell gives a sample of her temper early on when she assists her abusive aunt in a nose dive down a stairwell. The aunt had teased the girl about the romance fiction in her diary.

Most of the time, little Melissa is safe, with Nell playing out a mother-daughter scenario, just like Loretta Young, circa 1939.

But woe to the traveling salesman (Brett Cullen) who flirts with her from his room across the air shaft. He wants a quick flop. She wants commitment. And you know how Nell hates to be disappointed.

Ditto for several others who intrude on Nell's delusions.

By the time the publisher's banquet is over, the toll stands at four dead and two maimed.

And Nell shouldn't even dream of asking for a reference.

## 'Hoosier History'

"Indiana's Jewish Immigrants" are the next ethnic group to be featured on Rick Maultra's continuing "Hoosier History" series on cable Channel 16 on the American Cablevision and Comcast systems.

**See • SHULL C-7**

Interviews tell the story in "Hoosier History."

day, June 10, 1991

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS

# Shull: See anyone you know?

## Continued from C-1

The half-hour show will be on at 8 and midnight tonight, with more repeats Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at noon, 4 p.m., 8 p.m. and midnight.

Maultra delivers his own scenario, chronicling the arrival of Jewish immigrants from various national backgrounds, like lots and lots of music from "Fiddler on the Roof" plays on the soundtrack.

He has an abundance of archival photographs, some home movie films and a mad-dog shortage of identification of the people depicted.

Maultra has a few contemporary interviews with Jewish residents, including some survivors of the Nazi holocaust.

But much of the hour is devoted to a chronology of the temples and congregations here, and to some of the more prominent mercantile success stories, such as Leopold Strauss, founder of L. Strauss here,

New York and start Saks Fifth Avenue.

Special attention is given to Jack Goodman, founder of Real Silk Hosiery, and to his widow, who was the grand patroness of the arts in Indianapolis for many decades.

As with all Maultra's shows on local ethnic groups, there's a strong element of curiosity that you might see someone you know.

## 'Adventure'

PBS starts its fifth season of the "Adventure" anthology of documentaries to-night with "The Logan Challenge" in which three dog sled teams attempt to mush to the top of Canada's 19,500-foot Mount Logan.

Intercut with film of the 1990 adventure are old film clips from a 1925 expedition in which eight men, with no dogs, made the ascent.

WFYI 49 will have it at 8 and WTU, Channel 30, at 7.

An uncommon amount of the hour is

you've ever seen a mountain climbing film, you know the routine.

In this instance, American climber Jon Waterman and dog sledgers Rick Atkinson, who is British, and American Joe Runyan, a winner of Alaska's Iditarod race, each take an eight-dog sled to the top of the mountain.

The men did it to test their skills against the elements. The dogs were ordered to go.

## Face-off tonight

"Northern Exposure" on CBS and its spiritual father, "Twin Peaks," will go head-to-head for the first and probably last time tonight.

ABC will have the final two episodes of "Twin Peaks," specially edited to bring the story to a close, as a TV movie from 9 to 11 p.m., WRTV 6.

Meanwhile, "Northern Exposure" will begin a 12-week skein of reruns at 10 p.m.,



# A Tribute to Fort Benjamin Harrison on TV 16

The latest episode of the award-winning documentary series, *Hoosier History*, will examine Ft. Benjamin Harrison. The 30 minute program, "A Tribute to Ft. Benjamin Harrison" was produced by Rick Maultra for WCTY Cable TV 16 and can be seen on Comcast and American Cablevision.

The on-going process of closing down the base comes to a culmination in 1996 and documenting the life of the Post was a natural for the series. The program can be seen at 8 p.m. and midnight on Wednesday, Jan. 26, Friday, Jan. 28, and Sunday, Jan. 30.

The land that makes up the army base was once occupied by Indians of the Miami and Delaware tribes. They lived atop the ridges of hills along Fall Creek. Russell Harrison, the son of President Benjamin Harrison, was the person and the drive behind establishing the army base here. When the Civil War Arsenal on Indianapolis' near east side was disbanding, he lobbied President Theodore Roosevelt to establish another military base here and to have it named after Russell's father to honor the only U.S. President to come from Indiana. Roosevelt heartily agreed and plans were made by the government to acquire the land. It took some doing, though, to buy the land, as resident farmers of Lanesville, (now Lawrence) held out for more money than the government was willing to pay and in the eleventh hour, Indianapolis merchants cut a check to the residents to make up the difference. L.S. Ayres and Bobbs Merrill were primarily responsible for this, as they envisioned the impact that the army base would have on the local economy.

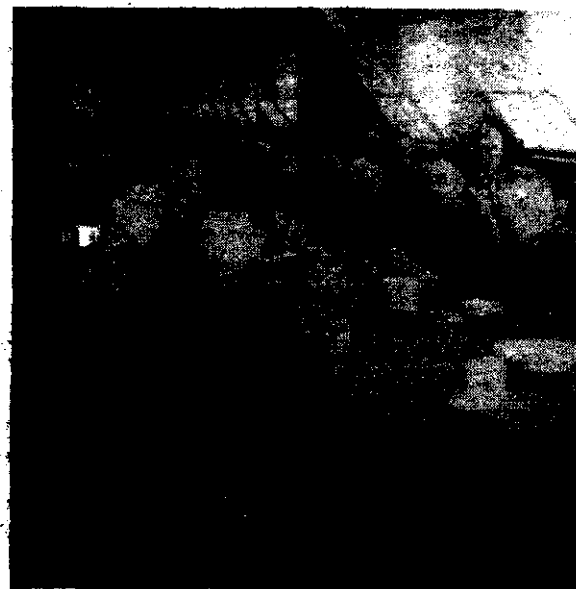
Although the base was not completed by 1910, maneuvers for the national guard began much earlier. By 1908, the 10th Infantry arrived. It was the first army regiment to be garrisoned at the base. The 10th brought with it an impressive record that included successful campaigns against the Indians on the western frontier and during the Civil War with

the Battle of Gettysburg.

Sports activities were very popular at the Post. Polo was very popular with the officers. Enlisted men were not allowed to participate but rather had to pack down any loose sod as a result of the horses and the sticks kicking it up. The football and baseball teams at the fort were likened to semi-pro teams and they would often compete with other military bases, as well as collegiate teams. If you participated in sports you got out of KP duty.

The infantry regiments at Ft. Harrison moved mostly by horseback or foot when they trained. Horse drawn artillery batteries were commonplace at the fort for dry run cannon fire. Because of the relatively small size of the fort, soldiers often marched with their horse drawn batteries to Ft. Knox, Kentucky, to engage in live fire.

The training of soldiers was as varied as one can imagine. There was grenade and bayonet practice. You were trained how to arrange your toiletries for inspection and practiced to become an expert on the firing range. From Blanket inspection to trench construction, Ft. Benjamin Harrison unquestionably prepared thousands of soldiers for combat...and life, and did so well.



*Photo contributed by the Indiana Historical Society.*



Tribute Now Featured At Local Museum...

## Campaigning for President... 1888 Style

A campaign spirit prevails at the Harrison Home as we look toward the 1988 election.

The Education Department is being kept busy with over 400 students coming for the new "Hoosiers for Harrison" program which focuses on Benjamin Harrison's campaign and how

campaigning has changed over the last 100 years.

A lesson plan on the 1888 election has also been developed and is available from the Education Department to teachers, scout leaders and other interested persons.

The Museum's Curator reports that the straw vote in the current exhibition on the third floor, "Button, Banners and Bandannas" is showing a great change of opinion from the 1888 election. At the end of September, Benjamin Harrison leads with 804 votes, Belva Lockwood of the Equal Rights Party is in second place with 421 votes, and Grover Cleveland, who won the popular vote in 1888, has 243 votes.

Rick Maultra of Channel 16, the local government cable station, is doing some campaigning for Benjamin Harrison by producing a 1/2 hour documentary on our 23rd President. He is using many never-before published photographs from the Harrison Home, the Indiana Historical Society, private collectors and Harrison descendants. Watch for this documentary in early November.

### Campaign Song Of '88

During the 1888 Presidential campaign, B. B. Custer wrote the words and music to several songs praising the Republican candidates.

The following verses are from "They're Good Enough for Us" and was dedicated to the wife of Harrison's running mate, Mrs. Levi Morton.

Verse 1:

"The song I will sing you of candidates this fall,  
Indiana has got one and he can down them all;  
He's sound upon protection, the tariff and all that,  
He's bound to dump Grover or any Democrat.  
There's none that can deny it, and not a mother's son  
Can carry Indiana like our Ben Harrison!

Chorus:

"Oh! Ben Jarrison is good enough and so is Morton, too,  
There's Hovey he will chase them with the red, white and  
the blue.

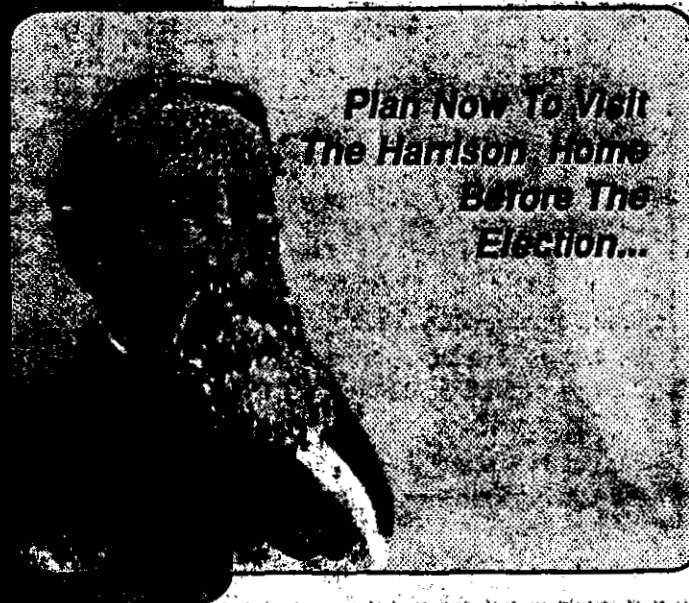
They stood up for the Union and we won't make no mistake,  
We're bound to have them there to swing upon the White  
House gate.

Verse 2:

"There's Morton, he's a good man, the Irish all know that.  
They'll never go back on him because they're Democrats.  
They've tried him and they know him, they've found a  
friend indeed;

He helped them at the right time when Ireland was in need.  
Then vote for Levi Morton, good times once more you'll  
see.

Come help us down all England for they're our enemies!"



Plan Now To Visit  
The Harrison Home  
Before The  
Election...



# In 'Little Italy,' the banana was the thing

"All Italians used to sell bananas in this town," Tudie Piazza declares.

That may be a slight exaggeration, but it is a fact that in 19th century Indianapolis a goodly portion of the Italian immigrants were in the fruit and vegetable business.

Push carts, fruit stands at market, wholesale and retail delivery routes, the names on the signs all seemed to end in vowels.

The Italian ethnic community in Indianapolis is the subject of the next half-hour "Hoosier History" documentary on cable channel 16 on the American Cablevision and Comcast systems. The show will be cablecast tonight, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m. and midnight.

It's interesting and fun.

Host Rick Maultra not only gives you a slice of Italian history in the state capital, he chats with a number of local residents, including Mary Mascari — "My daddy had a banana route with a horse and wagon" — and 96-year-old Nunzio Bruno, who didn't retire from the produce business until he was 89.

Clara Caito tells how the parish women saved Holy Rosary Catholic Church from bankruptcy with their monthly spaghetti suppers.



**RICHARD K. SHULL**

And then there are the Montanis, a prominent name in Indianapolis for more years than anyone now alive can remember.

The five sons of Ferdinando Montani had the hottest band in central Indiana in their heyday. And one of them, Nicola, a composer, went on to rework the Gregorian chants of the Catholic church into Americanized versions, for which he received the personal thanks of Pope Pius XI.

According to Maultra, mainland Italians settled on the Near Northside in Indianapolis, beginning in the 1840s, and engaged in a variety of crafts and professions.

John Gioscio recalls his grandfather was a noted religious muralist,

who traveled far and long, painting in churches.

Beginning in 1882, the Sicilians, driven by social upheaval at home, found their way to the Near Southside of Indianapolis and created their own "Little Italy" enclave.

Most of them came from around the town of Termini Immarce near Palermo on the north coast of Sicily, and according to legend, Indianapolis was picked because it was a rail hub, convenient for shipping produce in and out.

Holy Rosary became the Italian parish and, according to Maultra, "the heart and soul" of the Italian community. Those who weren't related by blood were related by marriage.

The aging Tudie Piazza speaks for many on the show when he says, "I wouldn't trade this country for nine of those across the water. Sometimes we akimped, but we've had a wonderful life here."

## New man in house

Stephen Thomas, a 36-year-old wood craftsman, sailing navigator and writer, will be the new host of the PBS how-to series, "This Old House,"

when it begins its 11th season next October.

Bob Villa, the show's host since it went on the air in 1979, came to a parting of the ways last March with the show's producer and its originating station, WGBH, Boston.

According to a WGBH spokesman, Villa had signed contracts to make commercial product endorsements, from which he couldn't back out. The station management thought this shilling for products would diminish his editorial credibility.

"This Old House," which offers expertise in remodeling and restoration of homes, has been a favorite program of young adults with the nesting urge.

Thomas will begin his stint as host of the show with the conversion of an 1835 barn in Concord, Mass., when he makes his debut in October.

Thomas, who is a native of California, started his career in old houses in 1974 when he renovated a 1920s residence in Olympia, Wash.

He continued in construction in the Pacific Northwest until 1980 when he moved to Massachusetts where he has restored or converted several early 19th century structures.

His woodworking skills extend to shipfitting and finish carpentry on sailing ships.

Thomas' passion for sailing led to his 1987 book, "The Last Navigator," in which he detailed his voyages in outrigger sailing canoes with Mau Pialug, a Micronesian navigator who taught him ancient navigational secrets using stars, clouds, ocean currents and bird sightings.

Their sailing trip from Satawal to Saipan, a distance of 500 miles, was the subject of the July 10 episode of the PBS "Adventure" series.

Thomas won out over some 400 others for the opportunity to host "This Old House."

## Senior law

Beginning Thursday July 27, attorney Scott Severns will join morning man Lou Sherman on WTUX (1310) from 8:15 to 8:30 a.m. to talk about legal problems of particular interest to the elderly.

Severns, who is the managing partner of the Severns & Lewis law firm and a nationally recognized authority on senior citizens' legal issues, is scheduled to be back on the show on the fourth Thursday of each month.



# 'Green beer so bad it killed seven Irishmen'

The trouble with the Irish in Indianapolis — and they do exist other than on March 17 — is there are so many of them.

When producer-host Rick Maultra tried to get a handle on "The Irish" for his cable access series, "Hoosier History," he found that one hour was barely time to scratch the surface.

There were early settlers such as William Conner of Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement fame, who started Nobleville, and his brother John, who started Connersville.

And there were Irish who dug their way to Indianapolis, following the canal-building of the early 19th century.

There were lace-curtain Irish on the near Northside and the more earthy varieties — it's not polite to call them shanty Irish — who settled the old Irish Hill neighborhood, south of Washington and east of College.

With old still pictures and home movies, new video tape and interviews with lots of people who remember when, Maultra has tried, with middling success, to piece together a por-



**RICHARD K. SHULL**

trait of Irish life in Indianapolis in the old days.

The program will be on cable Channel 16 on both American Cablevision and Comcast tonight at 8 and midnight, with additional showings Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

The Irish here produced men of letters, such as James Whitcomb Riley, and military men, such as Col. Bernard Mullen, who after the Civil War wanted to lead the Union Army's Irish regiments across the Atlantic

and drive the cursed British from Ireland.

But it seems the Irish community's principal products were politicians and football players.

A dozen mayors of Indianapolis — and the most colorful ones, at that — came from the Irish community — Tom Taggart, Al Feeney, Reggie Sullivan, to name a few. And Cathedral High School was a virtual farm team for the University of Notre Dame.

Where other ethnic groups might be identified with a church or two in the city, Maultra rattles off the names of seven Catholic parishes that were predominantly Irish.

Father James Barton, brother of former Mayor John Barton, is a font of anecdotes about things Irish in Indianapolis, including his recollections of the time presidential candidate John F. Kennedy attended services here and was put to work passing the collection plate.

Barton also offers the observation on the Ku Klux Klan that "It was anti-Jewish and anti-Irish. The blacks just got taken in later."

The anecdotes, the little snippets of oral history by old-timers, are the best part of this show. Such as:

The woman who recollects how August Hook, father of the founder of the drug store chain, "made a batch of green beer so bad it killed seven Irishmen."

Or the one who remembers, "My husband was second youngest of 14 kids. With their parents, that was 16 in the family. They'd cook a bushel of potatoes for a meal."

Or how the brewmaster at the old Indianapolis Brewing Co., owned by a couple of members of the prolific McNamara family, wrecked the company when he had an off day and turned out a batch "so bad it nearly done in everyone."

## Something wicked

In honor of Halloween, the production team responsible for "ALF" will have a half-hour special titled "The Wickedest Witch" tonight at 8:30, WTHR 9, following "ALF."

Rue McClanahan in a flowing fright wig stars as Avarissa, an evil witch

who has been banished for 300 years to a cave "under Ohio," where she suffers a fate worse than death. She is emcee of a perpetual game show, with gargoyle-like little "dreevils" as contestants.

It's hard to say which is worse, the sadistic things she does to the dreevils or the bad puns she inflicts upon them. With a flick of her wand, she turns one to stone, then comments, "There now, people can take you for granite."

Avarissa consults her oracle, who guesses, "You want to know where Elvis is?"

No, she wants to know if there's a loophole she can slide through to get out of that dump.

Only one, she's told. An innocent child from up above must be lured into doing a cruel and despicable trick on another person before Halloween. Otherwise, Avarissa can look forward to a few hundred thousand more rounds in the game show.

McClanahan has a good time with it. No small part of the show is the voice-over narration by Burgess Meredith.



# Glory days of tri-colored balls and victory

After too many seasons in the NBA where the Indiana Pacers played like they were competing for an early draft pick, it's nice to remember the team had its glory days.

"Five times in eight years we walked down the tunnel to play in the final game," former coach Bob "Slick" Leonard recalls of the years when the Pacers were in the American Basketball Association.

You do remember, don't you? The three-colored balls and the Pacers claiming more championships — three — than any other team in that long-gone league?

In the usual scheme of writing about television, I dismiss Channel 16 on the American Cablevision and Comcast systems in Marion County as the City Hall vanity channel, an access channel where our local politicians can stroke their own egos — blow off at the council or board meeting then run home and see the delayed tape.

But there is a show starting tonight on Channel 16, with a total of eight plays through Sunday, that steps out of character for the channel and may be of interest to you.

Rick Maultra, who produces, di-



**RICHARD K. SHULL**

rects and appears on many Channel 16 shows, has a "Hoosier History" series and his latest effort is subtitled "The ABA Indiana Pacers."

For an hour, you can see the stars of the old ABA team perform again, winning the big games and performing the superhuman feats that had the NBA franchises trying to steal some of them away.

The show goes on tonight and Friday at 8:30 p.m. and 12:35 a.m. Also, Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and 11:35 p.m.

In addition to lots and lots of game clips, Maultra tracks down and interviews Leonard and seven of the stars

of the Pacers from the ABA glory days — Roger Brown, Mel Daniels, Freddie Lewis, Rick Mount, Billy Keller, Bob Netolicky and George McGinnis.

## The very first Pacer

Brown was the first player signed when the Pacers franchise was created in 1967 and he stayed on to star for eight years, including the 1969-70, 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons when the Pacers won the league championships.

The interviews with the former players are more loving than enlightening, with each taking a turn lauding the achievements of his former team mates.

All the former players spent six, seven or eight seasons with the Pacers except Mount, who stayed only two years before he moved on to Louisville, Memphis and Utah.

I suspect Mount got into this show because he's available.

Leonard recalls how the upstart ABA was treated like a stepchild of the NBA, and without justification.

"We did not get the media coverage they do in the NBA," he says. "I was an NBA player and coach before I

came to the ABA. I know how good the ABA was."

Leonard and others remind you that some of the greatest stars of the game — Julius Erving, Moses Malone, George Gervin, Billy Cunningham, Dan Issel, Artis Gilmore, Maurice Lucas and Bobby Jones — were stars of the ABA who merged into the NBA.

Netolicky, the only guy in this show with a spark of humor, recalls how the NBA used to ridicule the ABA's three-point shot. Guess what everyone from high school on up now has in the game?

The slam-dunk also came out of the ABA. And McGinnis was the one who seemed to play the game one-handed when everyone else was using two.

Also, Erving was the guy who invented hang-time during the ABA days.

If you enjoy success, you'll love the game clips on this show. Thanks to judicious editing, everything the Pacers throw at the basket goes through, except when Daniels rebounds and stuffs.

The wonder is the ABA Pacers ever lost a game, according to these clips.

"I enjoyed every moment of it," Lewis recalls. "That was my team."

The players and Leonard all are effusive in their fondness for one another and of Leonard's off-court habit of socializing with the players and becoming involved with their personal lives.

## Us and them

That's in contrast to the us-and-them attitude in the NBA where the coaches keep their distance from the players in much the way a general doesn't get too palsy with the troops he has to send out to die.

So what's the big difference in pro basketball between then and now?

As Daniels, a tireless workhorse in his six Pacers years, sees it, "Now everybody's playing for their corporation. We played because we loved the game and we loved each other."

"Now, there are too many 'I's' and 'me's' and not enough 'we's.'"

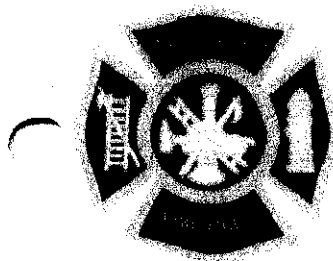
With the Pacers now progressing nicely toward new respectability in the NBA, there may be glory days ahead for the franchise.

In the meantime, it's fun to see again those familiar faces and remember that those were the days.









# Indianapolis Fire Department

**James L. Greeson**

**Chief of Fire**

**Suite E208, 50 N. Alabama**

**Indianapolis, IN 46204**

**(317) 327-6091**

**[www6.indygov.org/ifd](http://www6.indygov.org/ifd)**

January 6, 2006

Mr. Rick Maultra  
Cable Communications Agency  
Suite G19, 200 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Rick:

Being the head administrator of an organization employing over 700 individuals, communications is one of my largest challenges. Through your INet services, I have been able to conduct live broadcasts during which time the firefighters are able to call in to the program for direct and immediate answers to their concerns.

Your services through the INet system have helped tremendously with not only communications throughout the Department but also with routine training refresher courses. Firefighters are able to view the training tape within their own work area. By staying in their own stations, they are still able to respond to emergency calls thereby increasing the safety of the citizens of Indianapolis.

In addition to the INet services, you have also helped with other media recordings when requested.

Thank you for your services in the past. I am looking forward to another year of assistance from you and your staff.

Sincerely,

James L. Greeson  
Chief of Fire  
Indianapolis Fire Department





## INDIANAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Steven Auch, Division Chief EMS  
555 N. New Jersey St.  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

(317) 327-8660  
FAX: (317) 327-6836

January 5, 2006

Mr. Maultra,

My name is Steve Auch and I am the Division Chief of Training, Emergency Medical Services and Special Operations for The Indianapolis Fire Department. In my position I oversee all fire-fighter training for the department. It is my understanding that there is pending legislation that threatens the INET service currently utilized by IFD. I am writing you today to share my concerns.

The fire department is charged with providing many services to the citizens and visitors of Indianapolis. These services include fire-fighting, emergency medical services, several types of rescue, hazardous material mitigation and decontamination. Specialized training is necessary to stay proficient in all of these disciplines. One of the most difficult challenges the Department faces today is providing the necessary training. There are federal and state regulations that establish minimum continuing education requirements. Providing the education while still keeping fire companies available for emergency response is a difficult balance. Among the most effective tools we have in meeting these requirements is the INET.

Every day of the year we broadcast educational material into every station in our Department. Classes are often repeated several times each day to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to view them. We have broadcast everything from videotapes of our own training exercises to professionally produced programs. The network has proved to be a valuable tool in both education and communication for the entire fire department. During the last several years we have been very successful in devising new ways to utilize the network.

The loss of INET would be a tremendous blow to IFD education. We would lose one of the most effective educational tools we possess. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist with the efforts to maintain this critical asset.

Steve Auch  
Division Chief  
Indianapolis Fire Department





## Bright House Networks

[illegible]

## Comcast Cablevision

[illegible]







# FCC gives Ameritech parent a scolding

■ Agency's letter about service in Midwest comes at time when firm wants OK on long-distance push.

By Bill Keenig  
STAFF WRITER

The Federal Communications Commission has thrown its support behind Indiana and four other Midwestern states that are grappling with how to force Ameritech

Corp. to fix widespread local telephone service problems in the region.

In a letter to SBC Communications, Ameritech's parent company, FCC official Dorothy T. Attwood said, "I am concerned that ... consumers in SBC's region are

experiencing increasing installation delays, longer repair times and greater difficulties contacting the company about their problems.

While the FCC does not control local service problems, the agency's action comes at a time when Ameritech and its Texas-based owner are preparing to seek federal approval to offer long-distance service in some states.

The five Midwestern states af-

fected by Ameritech's service problems -- Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin -- are welcoming the FCC's involvement.

"Obviously we're encouraged the FCC has taken notice of what's happening in the states," said Michael Leppert, executive director of external affairs for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. "That will only increase the likelihood of a reasonable response by

the company."

"I think it's a very significant piece of news," said David Farrell of the Illinois Commerce Commission, the agency that regulates utilities in that state.

In all five states, thousands of Ameritech customers are coping with a variety of problems, including long waits for repairs and in-

See AMERITECH Page 9